MURFREESBORO'S PROVIDER OF THE WEIRD AND COOL SINCE 2012

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CHEAP

CULTURE CRINGE

SPRING 2025

THE SPRING FEVER ISSUE!!

STYLE. TRENDS. FUTURES. PAST!!

EXCLUSIVE:
WRITING A PERSONAL NARRATIVE IN A DYSTOPIAN SOCIETY!!!

INTERVIEW
THE ONE. THE ONLY.
MOLLY NILSSON

SPRING 2025
CRINGER
AT 2 BOX 777
MURFREESBORO TN 37127

GIMMIE GIMMIE GIMMIE THAT SPRING FEVER.....

I'm actually a huge fan of the winter season. So just so ya know, i'm not out here shilling for spring. I know a **ton** of people like it though, or the ritual associated with it. The renewal, blooming, cleaning, stuff like that. Some say it gets them out of a funk. I've always looked at it as the gates that lead to MISERABLE summer (or, "**hot garbage**" summer as I now call it).

That's enough poetry - today's topic concerns the game of baseball. I'm not really a fan of the sport but I have always said that I feel like I could be if I paid attention to it. The sentence you just read had the pronou "I" in it five times, if you include the word "I'm". I SWEAR this is not all about me. We are in this together.

SIDE NOTE: VISIT WWW.CULTURECRINGE.ORG IF YOU HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER OR AN INTERNET CONNECTED PERSONAL DEVICE

**********BACK TO THE TOPIC AT HAND**********

I like the way baseball was romanticized in cinema during the 80s. Out of shape misfits, sometimes with mental / substance addictions who were somehow athletes on the side. Those movies had a lot of cussing and were **hilarious** so 12 year old me was down. I played the sport as a kid. One year I made the "all-star" team. At first I didn't make the team and I was super upset, but then I got a call the next day saying that I HAD INDEED made the team. I'm not sure what happened there. I decided that I was going to do an at-bat stance like Pete Rose. So I practiced in front of the mirror and got it down, then at a game I gave it a shot. The coach yelled "cut out the Pete Rose crap" and people in the stands **laughed**. I mean, **cmon**.

********A CAREER CUT SHORT - AFTER DISCOVERING GRUNGE MUSIC!!!********

I played until my early teens. One day after practice I went to my friend Tommy's house. He had a tape of a new band called Nirvana and we listened to it in his mom's station wagon until the **battery died**. She was mad. Anyways I know it's super stereotypical, but after hearing that album I realized that baseball was for chumps. It led to finding other bands, then eventually my local college station broadcast outta Vanderbilt. THAT is when things got **really** wild. I ended up quitting at a practice that summer when the coach said something about my blotchy red hair. YEP, I had bought a can of colored hair spray and would spray it in once I left the house. I was **so punk**, y'all don't even know.

********THE RETURN OF THE ALL-STAR IN TRUE ROCK AND ROLL FASHION**********

In 2006 I was in a band, unemployed, and living in Nashville doing what unemployed broke rockers do. One day that band The Strokes came to town and it was a great show actually. The next day they had the day off so they decided to play some baseball against their friends The Kings of Leon. The KOL needed some extra players so they called me and my buddy Nick luckily we both had gloves (I have no idea WHY i actually had one - but by god i did). We met everyone at the field at David Lipscomb and sure enough it was just us, the KOL, the guys from The Strokes, some of their road crew, and for some reason a couple of MLB players who were randomly in town. That was it. No crowd. Then..we played a full game. Everyone (including me) took it rather seriously. Julian Casablancas was pitching for team Strokes. I got a couple of good hits off him. I remember the drummer was playing first base and wearing his tight leather jacket while on the field, which I gave him props for. It was pretty fun and kinda weird, and team Leon won...I'd like to think thanks to me and my "all-star" background. At that moment I realized that I quit baseball as a teen so I could go on and play some music and ultimately get a double off the Strokes frontman...all while his girlfriend watched. OH THE BEST PART? After the game, we took an old-school "team picture", you know, where the row in the front is on one knee, and then a standing row of players behind them. The managers and MLB players were on the sides like the coaches would be. Someone took it with their digital camera and I haven't seen it since. I'd die to have a copy of that pic.

...AND NOW A VERY SPECIAL

FEATURE INTERVIEW:

MOLLY NILSSON

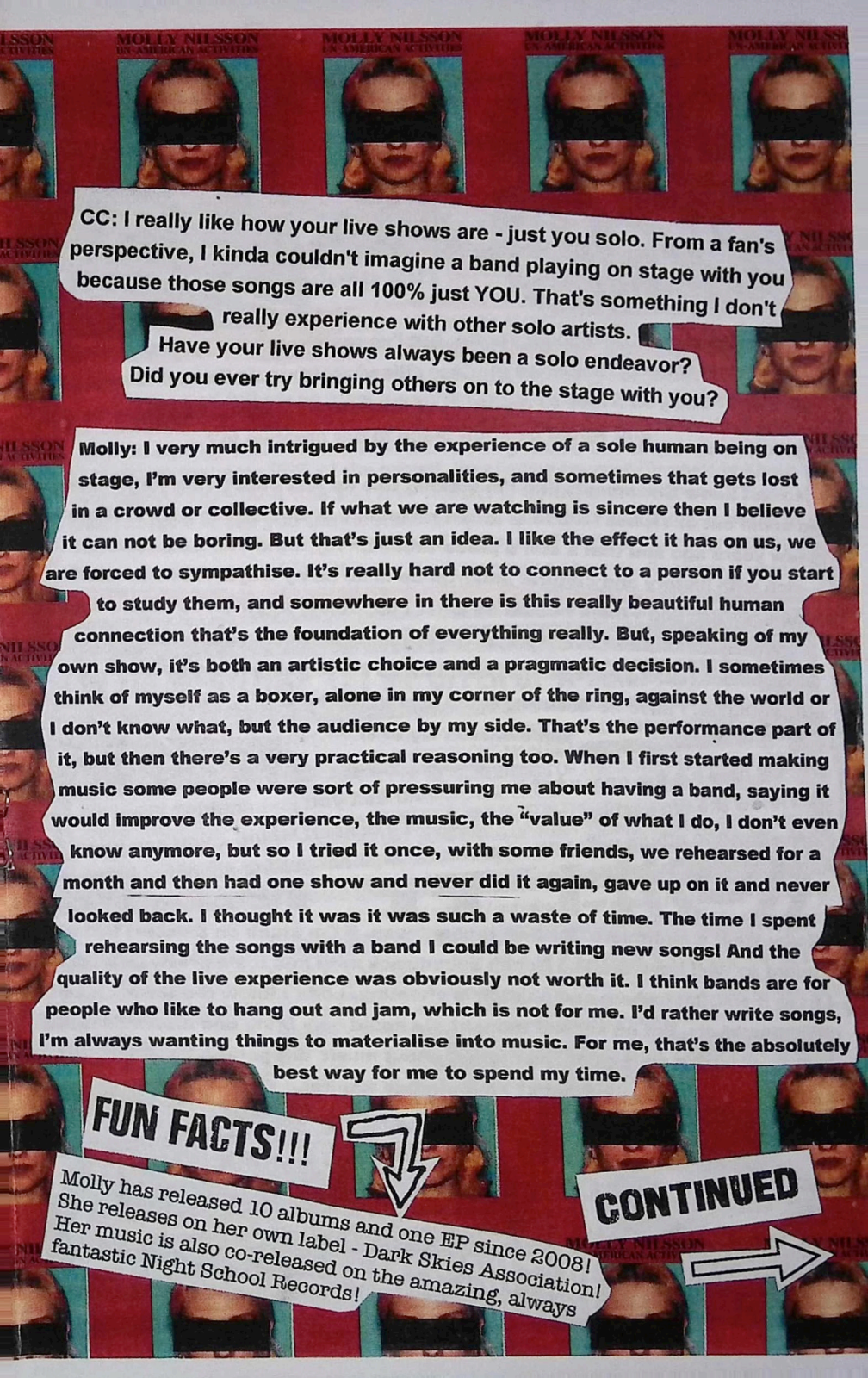
I was super fortunate to be able to ask one of my favorite musicians a few questions. What a **thrill**! Now...quit wasting time. Turn that page!

CC: You are an inspiration to all of us who participate in DIY culture, especially in music. You do it ALL when it comes to your music. I'm curious however as to what the most challenging part of being a totally DIY artist is to you in this day and age?

Molly: Why thank you, I'm flattered and honoured! I think there is something built into "DIY" that comes with challenges, as if that's a part of the beauty. It's going against things and maybe taking the longer but more rewarding route. But the thing I find most difficult these days, not in a fun challenge way, is to find ways to "spread the word", and the music in this case, outside the corporate platforms. It seems like the infrastructure for subculture and counterculture has been so severed a lot of people today don't even know how to maneuver outside them. It's difficult to get the word out about shows, without social media for example. I wish for a thriving culture, to counterbalance the mainstream and commercial interests, full of gigs, music mags, zines and xerox posters on every corner. But I'm a romantic when it comes to this stuff, I just find "online" so boring.

CC: Are you constantly writing songs and coming up with ideas on a daily basis or do you only get in writing mode when you're gearing up to record an album? In your song The Beauty of the Duty, you have a line that says "write one song a day, but if it's bad, write two." I love that line.

Molly: I'm always going between "in" and "out" phases, which means I'm always writing but not always Recording songs. Most of the time I spend collecting ideas for them and that's almost as fun as making them. Sometimes I have an idea for a song for one or two years. Of course I'm not actively working on it for that long but I kinda keep it in the back of my mind and take it out and look at it every once in a while. Sometimes it takes a long time to figure out what you wanna say, and how, then sitting down to record it can take just a day. When I'm in a recording mode though, I try to do only that. Record and sing and play as much as I can, it's usually a few weeks to a month. Then I gotta take a break, maybe go for a trip, read, see some art and friends, go to some parties and get bored of it all and then it starts over again. The best thing about being a "solo" artist is how you can push yourself as much or little as you want, never compromise, always catch an idea before you start doubting it. It's usually about confidence, that's when you make the best stuff, but sometimes it feels like it's about speed; you gotta work faster than your own shadow, which is your self-doubt. Like Lucky Luke.



CC: I really like how your live shows are - just you solo. From a fan's perspective, I kinda couldn't imagine a band playing on stage with you because those songs are all 100% just YOU. That's something I don't really experience with other solo artists.
Have your live shows always been a solo endeavor?
Did you ever try bringing others on to the stage with you?

Molly: I very much intrigued by the experience of a sole human being on stage, I'm very interested in personalities, and sometimes that gets lost in a crowd or collective. If what we are watching is sincere then I believe it can not be boring. But that's just an idea. I like the effect it has on us, we are forced to sympathise. It's really hard not to connect to a person if you start to study them, and somewhere in there is this really beautiful human connection that's the foundation of everything really. But, speaking of my own show, it's both an artistic choice and a pragmatic decision. I sometimes think of myself as a boxer, alone in my corner of the ring, against the world or I don't know what, but the audience by my side. That's the performance part of it, but then there's a very practical reasoning too. When I first started making music some people were sort of pressuring me about having a band, saying it would improve the experience, the music, the "value" of what I do, I don't even know anymore, but so I tried it once, with some friends, we rehearsed for a month and then had one show and never did it again, gave up on it and never looked back. I thought it was it was such a waste of time. The time I spent rehearsing the songs with a band I could be writing new songs! And the quality of the live experience was obviously not worth it. I think bands are for people who like to hang out and jam, which is not for me. I'd rather write songs, I'm always wanting things to materialise into music. For me, that's the absolutely best way for me to spend my time.

FUN FACTS!!!

Molly has released 10 albums and one EP since 2008!
She releases on her own label - Dark Skies Association!
Her music is also co-released on the amazing, always fantastic Night School Records!

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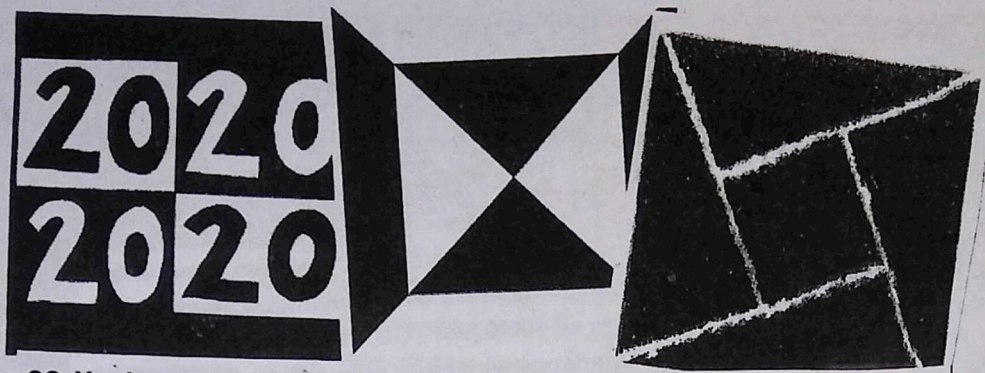

CC: You have your own home studio, but I've read you have recorded a couple of albums while in residence in other cities/locations. Is there one place in particular that you'd love to record at in the future? A place that inspires you and would be a fun place to get creative in?

Molly: I know this sounds like I'm making this up just cause this zine happens to come out of TN but I did look into a residency at Crosstown Arts in Memphis a few years ago and that's still a place that's on my mind. It's a fascinating city, rich with history and cultural importance in so many ways. I'm interested in many places, and I think I could do what I do almost anywhere and it would be slightly different in every place, depending on what kind of influence the environment would have on me. As much as I love going to new places, I love staying home. I have no desire to force myself on the world, but when I'm invited somewhere I try to show up.

CC: Ok here's a fun one: what is one album that you just couldn't live without? You know the old saying....you're stuck on a dessert island....you can just take one album with you....you know what I'm getting at...haha

Molly: What a nightmare. My first thought was, if I'm stuck on a desert island, I might as well have the The Beach soundtrack with me. It's a pretty good one, I have it on CD. Maybe a compilation is cheating, I don't know the Desert island rules, thankfully. But on second thought, if I could only bring one album I'd rather bring none at all, just forget about music altogether, ha.

A book? I'd bring Das Kapital.

THANK YOU SO MUCH MOLLY!

be sure to check out her music - and check out her website at darkskiesassociation.org

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OK LOOK - IT'S TIME TO ADDRESS SOMETHING THAT I'M KINDA TIRED OF HEARING ABOUT

CALL ME A PARTY POOPER BUT.....

guys **seriously** if OPRYLAND was still around

it would be an **absolute** hellscape, i'm talking beyond your worst nightmares unbearable and full of the most annoying people known to mankind! Look at what Nashville has done to everything else and **think about it**. Think of all the pink cowboy hat wearing modern country music blasting drunk idiots that would make up 99% of the crowd. People are constantly posting about how GREAT Opryland was and how GREAT it would be if it were still here, well i'm here to tell you that it went away at the **PERFECT** time. It stays in our memories as a pretty cool place. Hell I even WORKED there for a little bit (one summer) and I **still** have good memories about it. So there, I said it.

IN THE MEANTIME, LET ME OFFER UP A COMPROMISE

I WOULD BE OPEN TO AND/OR ALLOW THE RE-OPENING OF **SEA WORLD OHIO**, WHICH WAS LOCATED IN AURORA FROM 1970 TO 2000. THERE IS ONE MAIN REASON FOR THIS CONCESSION ON MY END, AND THAT IS THE POSSIBILITY OF RE-SCREENINGS OF THE MOVIE **PIRATES 4D** WHICH WAS ONLY SHOWN AT SEA WORLD OHIO AND STARRED **ERC IDLE** AND **LESLIE NIELSEN**!! THERE IS A LEGEND THAT **RODNEY DANGERFIELD** WAS ALSO IN THE FILM FOR A SCENE OR TWO. I ALSO TRULY BELIEVE THAT A MODERN DAY SCREENING OF THIS FILM WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT REPELLENT OF ***pink cowboy hat wearing modern country music blasting drunk idiots.***

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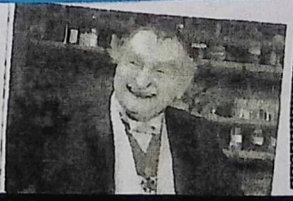
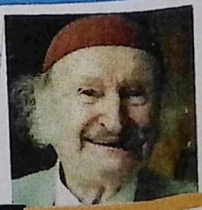
EXCLUSIVE STYLE SECTION - THE MANY LOOKS OF AL LEWIS!!!

cut them out, paste on bulletin boards, trade with friends, give as gifts, etc!!





WOULD YOU BUY THIS BUMPER STICKER???

KEEP HONKING!! I'M BUSY MISSING VIDEO CULTURE

PERHAPS PUT IT ON YOUR VEHICLE??

THE TIME MY MOM (AND AUNTS) WERE ON THE FAMILY FEUD

In JULY of 1980 my mom, two aunts, and their two cousins appeared on **THE FAMILY FEUD** during the absolute height of fashion and era of sideburns and pinky rings. The host was **RICHARD FREAKIN' DAWSON** and you young people probably know him best from **Hogan's Heroes** or **The Match Game**, as well as the **Arnold Schwarzenegger** sci-fi action romp **The Running Man**. Anyways he kissed all over them and flirted in a way he could never get away with today. I was very very young at the time so I wasn't aware of whole thing, but when I grew up my mom told me that he smelled like *super cheap cologne and cigarettes*. Anyways they lost the game and left with some amazing parting gifts such as salt and peppers shakers and some sets of new dishes.

assorted pictures from the broadcast below: Dawson intrigued by mom

mom blowing me a kiss!

THE KISS!!!!

(This lady looking jealous)